GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1206
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
MINING OF PRECIOUS COMMODITIES
BHASKAR RAO PATIL;CHARAN DAS MAHANT;NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to grant permission for mining the precious commodities to diamond miners in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether any amendments in the Mines and Minerals Development and Regulation Act have been made;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to promote mining of precious commodities in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS)

(a) to (e):As per National Mineral Policy, 1993 (NMP), exploration and exploitation of precious stones including diamonds have been opened for private sector. To give effect to National Mineral Policy, Mines & Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957(MMDR, Act) has been amended in 1994 and 1999. The Rules framed under MMDR Act have also been amended several times since 1994.

The changes in the Act and Rules have mainly resulted in delegation of more powers to State Governments, simplifying procedure for grant and renewal of mining lease/prospecting licence, providing stability of tenure for mineral concessions, introduction of concept of Reconnaissance Operations, and empowering State Governments for framing Rules for prevention of illegal mining.

Exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals including diamond and other precious stones have been thrown open to private entrepreneurs. Government is making all efforts to increase investment in the mining sector by creating investor friendly climate and removing bottlenecks to attract such investment.